The Union of India has also requested Additional Solicitor General to make a special mention in the Supreme Court of India for an early hearing of the case.

(c) and (d) The money allocated to the Panchayats is through individual centrally sponsored schemes administered by different Ministries of Government of India under their respective guidelines. The monitoring of these guidelines is the responsibility of the sponsoring Ministry concerned.

Village Resource Centres in Andhra Pradesh

346. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Village Resource Centres to provide better services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when these are likely to be set up;

(d) whether the locations of the proposed Centres have been identified; and

(e) if so, the details thereof pertaining to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Village Resources Centres are envisaged to provide various space technology enabled services such as telemedicine, tele-education, natural resources information and advisories on agriculture, land and water resources, wheather and fisheries etc., directly to the grassroots, through a single window mechanism.

(c) Village Resources Centres are already being set up, in different States, in association with selected NGOs, Trusts and State Government departments; and till date 108 Village Resource Centres have been set up.

(d) and (e) In Andhra Pradesh, 2 Village Resource Centres have so far been set up-one at Moosapet in Mahabubnagar district, and the other

at ICRISAT, Hyderabad, in association with the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai. Another 31 Village Resource Centres are being set up in 8 districts (Adilabad, Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Krishna, Nalgonda and West Godavari) in association with the B.Y.R. Raju Foundation and the Dhan Foundation.

Funds for Gram Panchayats

347. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government provide some funds to State Governments by directly allocating the same to Gram Panchayats;

(b) the purpose of sending funds to Panchayats directly;

(c) the mechanism of verification of the fact that each Panchayat has received allocated amount and has properly utilized the same;

(d) the funds provided to the State Government of Rajasthan for allocating the same to Panchayats during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(e) the average share per Panchayat in above allocations; and

(f) whether this is adequate?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No Sir. At present the Central Government does not directly allocate any funds to Gram Panchayats.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Funds are allocated to Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Central Finance Commission grants. During the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, the total release of funds under SGRY by the Central Government to the Government of Rajasthan was Rs. 254.70 crores. In addition to this, a totai of 199924 tonnes of foodgrains (rice and wheat) were also authorized for the State under the Scheme.

2. The 12th Finance Commission recommended a grant of Rs. 20,000 crore for the period 2005-10 to augment the Consolidated Fund of the